

AURORA COMMUNITY THEATRE
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Contact:
Christine Patronik-Holder
330-562-1818

ACT Presents *ZOMBIE PROM*
July 9 – 24

AURORA, OH (June 15, 2010) --- Aurora Community Theatre presents the campy, musical comedy *ZOMBIE PROM* for six performances only at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, July 9 – 24. With interior renovations underway at the Aurora Community Theatre, *ZOMBIE PROM* will be performed on the auditorium stage at Aurora High School, 109 W. Pioneer Trail.

Set in the 1950s, this rollicking romp through America's "Atomic Age," features book and lyrics by **John Dempsey** and music by **Dana P. Rowe**, all based on a story by Dempsey and **Hugh M. Murphy**. *ZOMBIE PROM* is presented with the generous support of **Pat Catan's Craft Centers**.

A delightful collage of mid-century nostalgia for grandparents and parents, high-energy, high-school songs and dances that teens will love, plus just enough silliness for youngsters, *ZOMBIE PROM* is fun for the whole family.

"If you like *GREASE* ... you [will] like *ZOMBIE PROM*," wrote the N.Y. Daily News.

Marc C. Howard, who makes his ACT directorial debut with *ZOMBIE PROM*, said: "It's sly, irreverent and, to say the least, over the top. This fast-paced musical will radiate enough energy to bring the audience to its feet."

Howard will choreograph and **Brandon Lambert** will direct the music for this sly spoof of song, dance and musical genres. **John Marchese** is the producer. **Brad Barnes** serves as assistant director.

ZOMBIE PROM features **Andy Weyenberg** as Jonny Warner, the lovestruck teen whose most daring rebellion consists of dropping the "h" from his name, and **Colleen McCaughey** as pretty good-girl Toffee. **Claudia Lillibridge** plays Miss Deliliah Strict, whose last name provides a clue to her management style, with **Michael Guffey** as Eddie Flagrante, the fireball journalist.

Toffee's best friends will be performed by **Kaley Voorhees**, Coco, **Kristin Benner**, Candy and **Lindsay Simon**, Ginger. **Billy Eline** plays Josh, **Shane Hurst** is Jake and **Jeffery Raig** is Joey. **Abby Zerull** will take to the stage as Ramona Merengue and as a Student. **Nicole Romo** will be seen in three roles as Mother, Secretary and Stage Manager. Other multiple-role players include: **Alli St. John**, Student/Secretary, **Andrew**

Novak, Student/Copy Boy, **Angel Foster**, Secretary/Make-Up Lady, **Dave Sherman**, Father/Announcer, **Evan Henrich**, Student/Motorwise Guy and **John Sudsina**, Student/Motorwise Guy. **Julie Ballway**, **Lexi Clossin** and **Caitlin Houlahan** all perform as Students.

Zach Wells is stage manager, **Nate Benson**, assistant stage manager, **Lindsay Simon**, dance captain and **David Cooper** is in charge of costumes. **Michael Minite** oversees sound and lighting with assistance from **Justin Nutting** on sound, **Chris Riley** and **Stephanie Ivany** on lights.

Paul Checkak constructed the sets. **Kara Yogan** heads up set decoration with help from scene painters **Sophie Church**, **Emma Church** and **Robert Pigza**. **Kristie Siders** is in charge of props. **Blake Baldwin**, **Patrick Loudon**, **Michael Sockolich**, **Jake Hays** and **Missy Meyer** make up the running crew with general technical assistance from Pigza and **Zach Janice**. **Dixie Benschhoff Ludick** is assistant producer.

ZOMBIE PROM is set in the 1950s at Enrico Fermi High, where sweet and proper Toffee falls for class bad boy Jonny. When family pressure forces an end to the romance, Jonny jumps on his motorcycle and speeds to the local power plant where he throws himself into the nuclear waste dump. Although buried at sea in a metal casket, Toffee's undying love penetrates all barriers and rejuvenates Jonny who returns to EF High as a green-faced, toxic zombie bent on graduating with his class and taking his dream girl Toffee to the prom. Tyrannical principal Delilah Strict has different ideas and bars the goo-covered, cadaverous zombie teen from rejoining his class. The school's discrimination policy ("walking dead are strictly prohibited at Enrico Fermi High") prompts sensationalist journalist Eddie Flagrante to expose the school's intolerance, bringing him face to face with the intractable Miss Strict. When principal and reporter realize their shared past, true to his name, Flagrante rekindles the flame which softens the inflexible Strict.

The musical spoof on comics and movies was first produced at the Red Barn Theatre, Key West, Florida in 1993. It opened off-Broadway in New York City at the Variety Arts Theatre in 1996 and in 2009 made its UK premiere at London's off-West End Landor Theatre. ***ZOMBIE PROM*** was also adapted into a short film.

Tickets at \$16 for adults, \$11 for youth 18 and under, are available online, including seat selection, at www.auroracommunitytheatre.com or call the box office at 330-562-1818. Discounts for groups of 15 or more are available by calling the box office.

ZOMBIE PROM is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc. Aurora Community Theatre extends special appreciation to **PAT CATAN's CRAFT CENTERS** for their sponsorship of ***ZOMBIE PROM***.

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ACT, celebrating 51 successful seasons in 2010-11, presents three regular season shows, a summer stock production, and two children's summer workshops, reaching an annual audience of nearly 7,000. ACT showcases the region's top actors, musicians, costume and set designers, construction, lighting, sound and backstage crews -- all of whom generously donate their time and talent.